

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 787

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickerson

February 24, 1999

An act to amend Sections 15275 and 15278 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 787, as introduced, Dickerson. Commercial vehicles: driver's license endorsements: exemption.

Existing law generally requires the driver of a commercial vehicle to obtain a driver's license endorsement issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

This bill would exempt drivers of public safety vehicles operated for the purpose of hauling compressed air tanks for breathing apparatus from that endorsement requirement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 15275 of the Vehicle Code is
2 amended to read:
3 15275. (a) No person may operate a commercial
4 motor vehicle described in this chapter unless that person
5 has in his or her possession a valid commercial driver's
6 license for the appropriate class, and an endorsement
7 issued by the department to permit the operation of the
8 vehicle *unless exempt from the requirement to obtain an*

1 *endorsement pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section*
2 *15278.*

3 (b) An endorsement to drive vehicles specified in this
4 article shall be issued only to applicants qualified by
5 examinations prescribed by the department and that
6 meet the minimum standards established in Part 383 of
7 Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

8 (c) The department may deny, suspend, revoke, or
9 cancel an endorsement to drive vehicles specified in this
10 article when the applicant does not meet the
11 qualifications for the issuance or retention of the
12 endorsement.

13 SEC. 2. Section 15278 of the Vehicle Code is amended
14 to read:

15 15278. (a) A driver is required to obtain an
16 endorsement issued by the department to operate any
17 commercial motor vehicle ~~which~~ *that* is any of the
18 following:

19 (1) A double trailer.

20 (2) A passenger transportation vehicle, which
21 includes, but is not limited to, a bus, farm labor vehicle,
22 or general public paratransit vehicle when designed,
23 used, or maintained to carry more than 10 persons
24 including the driver.

25 (3) A tank vehicle.

26 (4) A vehicle carrying hazardous materials ~~which~~ *that*
27 is required to display placards or markings pursuant to
28 Section 27903 or ~~which~~ *that* is hauling hazardous waste, as
29 defined in Sections 25115 and 25117 of the Health and
30 Safety Code, unless the driver is exempt from the
31 endorsement requirement as provided in subdivision
32 (b). This paragraph does not apply to either of the
33 following:

34 (A) Any person operating an implement of husbandry
35 who is not required to obtain a driver's license under this
36 code.

37 (B) Any person operating a vehicle transporting
38 asphalt or coal tar pitch at a temperature that requires the
39 display of a marking on the vehicle pursuant to Section
40 27903 and that is described and classified by the United



1 States Department of Transportation as “elevated
2 temperature liquid n.o.s. Division 9.”.

3 (b) This section does not apply to any person
4 exempted pursuant to Section 25163 of the Health and
5 Safety Code ~~or~~ to any person operating a vehicle in an
6 emergency situation at the direction of a peace officer
7 pursuant to Section 2800, *or to drivers of public safety*
8 *vehicles operated for the purpose of hauling compressed*
9 *air tanks for breathing apparatus.*

